



# Android Fundamentals

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# Outline

1. Introduction to Android
2. Android Programming Model

# Introduction to Android



android

# Why learn app development?

- Smart devices are ubiquitous
  - Estimated 3.5 billion smartphones + tablets, smart watches, IoT devices...
  - Apps **interwoven** into daily life – work, play, study
  - Mobile = **dominant** end-user device. It represents and intimately “knows” the user: much more than just a small computer, **it represents the user**
  - Brings in outside world: **sensing, location, communication**
- Apps less expensive and more portable
- Large market opportunity for businesses and developers

# Types of mobile development: Web vs Hybrid vs Native



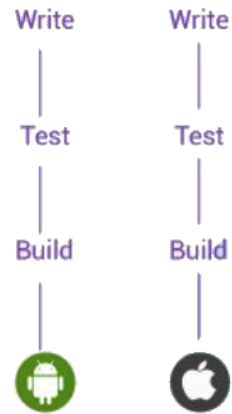
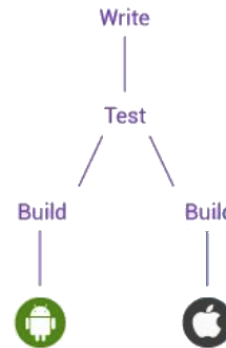
## Web Apps

- Multi-platform
- Leverage existing web dev skillset and code
- Web UI: Run in browser or WebView (can be offline)
- Least access to hardware, sensors, OS
- Slower performance




## Hybrid Apps

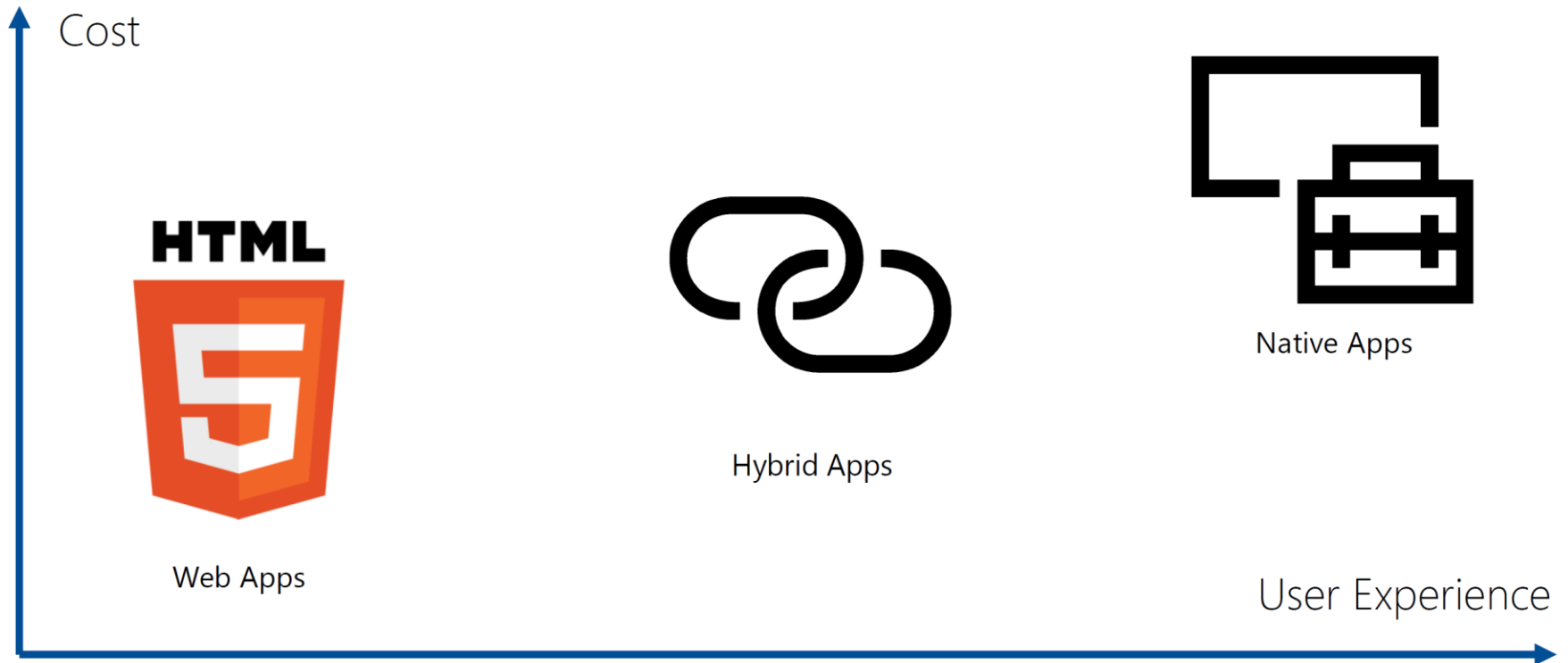
- Shared codebase for iOS & Android
- Leverage web dev skillset and code
- Web app hosted in a **native app shell** to mediate access to hardware, sensors, OS



## Native Apps

- Single platform **iOS** or 
- Native UI and best user experience
- Run directly on OS: Fast performance
- Best system Integration: Full access to hardware, sensors, OS
- More expensive: requires multiple code bases and teams

# Web vs Hybrid vs Native

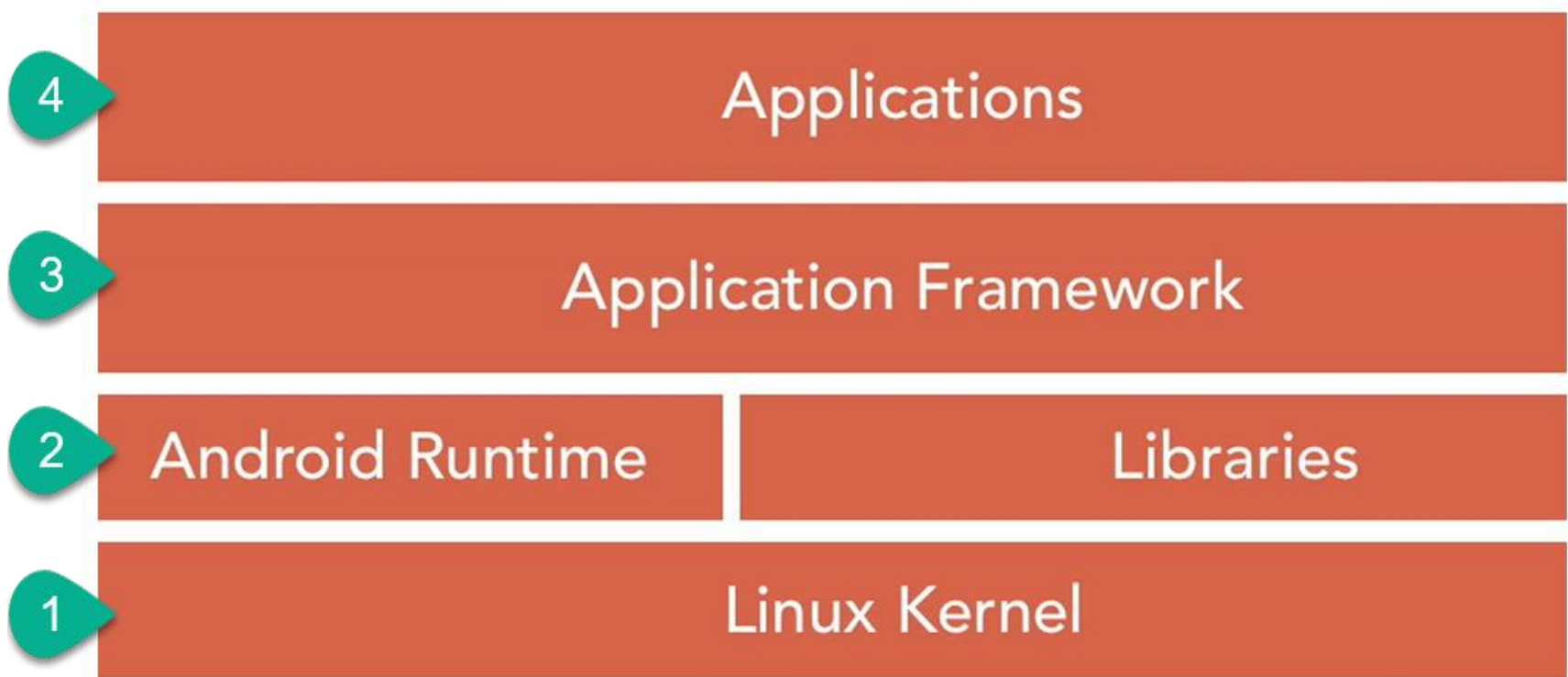


# What is Android?

- Open source mobile operating system (OS) based on Linux kernel for phones, tablets, wearable
  - originally purchased by Google from Android, Inc. in 2005
- The #1 OS worldwide
  - Used on over 80% of smartphones
  - As of 2019, over 2.5 billion Android devices worldwide
  - Over 2 Million Android apps in Google Play store
- Highly customizable for devices by vendors



# Android Software Stack



1. Interacts and manages hardware
2. Expose native APIs & run apps
3. Java API exposing Android OS features
4. System and user apps (e.g., contacts, camera)



# Android Software Stack

1. Optimized **Linux Kernel** for interacting with the device's processor, memory and hardware drivers (e.g., WiFi Driver)
  - Acts as an abstraction layer between the hardware and the rest of the software stack
2. **Android runtime (ART)** = Virtual Machine to run Apps
  - Each app runs in its own process and with its own instance of the Android Runtime that controls the app execution (e.g., permission checks) in isolation from other apps
  - Expose native APIs and OS Core Libraries including 2D/3D graphics, Audi Manager, SQLite database, encryption ...
3. **Application Framework**: Java APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) make Android OS features available to Apps (e.g., Activity Manager that manages the lifecycle of apps)

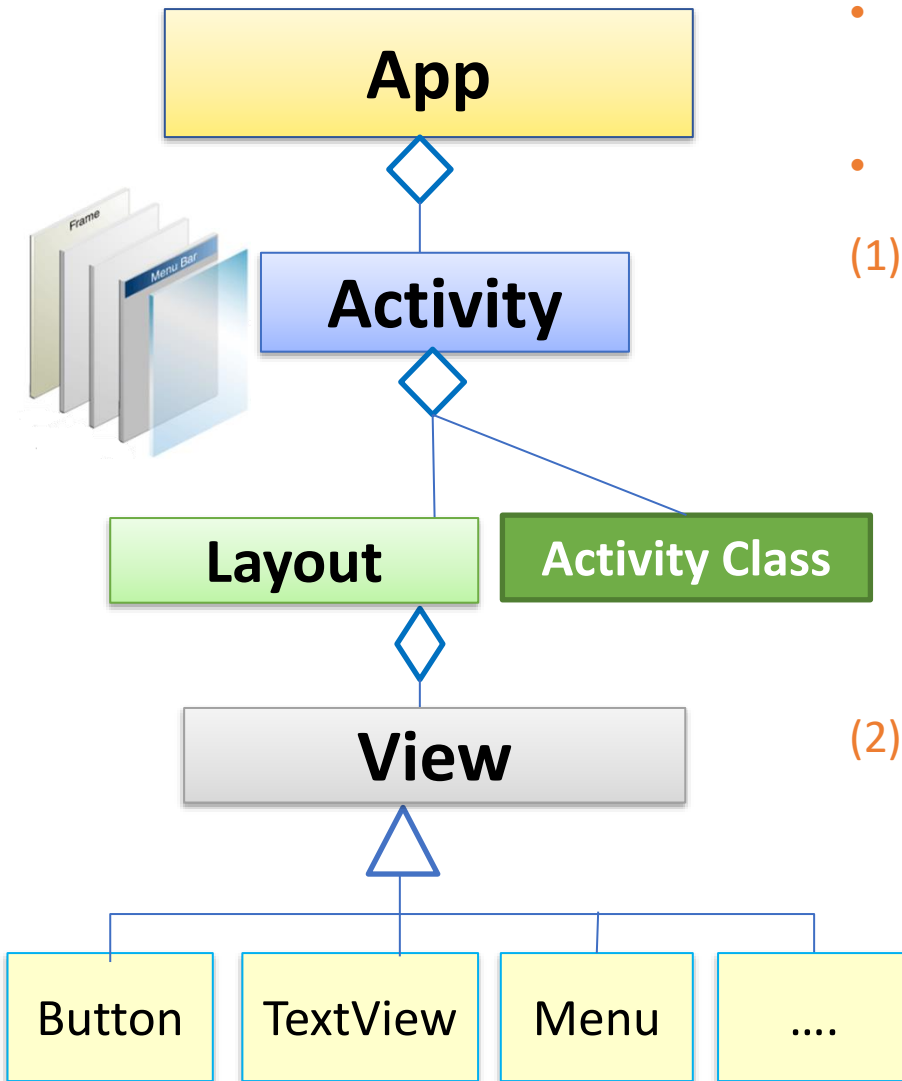
<https://developer.android.com/guide/platform>



# Android Programming Model

# Android Programming Model

**IMPORTANT**



- App is composed of one or more **screens** (called **Activity**)
- An **activity** has:
  - (1) a **Layout** that define its appearance (how it **looks like**)
    - Layout acts as a **container** for UI Components (called **View**)
    - It decides the size and position of views placed in it
  - (2) Activity Kotlin class that provides the data to the UI and handles events
    - UI Components **raise Events** when the user interacts with them (such as a Clicked event is raised when a button is pressed).
    - In the activity class we define **Event Handlers** to respond to the UI events

# Activity

- **Activity** provides the UI that the user interacts with
  - Allow the user to do something such as order groceries, send email
  - Has **layout** (.xml) file & **Activity class**
  - This allows a **clear separation** between the UI and the app logic
- Connecting activity with the layout is done in the **onCreate** method

```
setContentView(R.layout.activity_main)
```

- Activity class defines listeners to handle events:
  - User interaction events such press a button or enters text in a text view
  - External events such as receiving a notification or screen rotation

# Example

```
class MainActivity : AppCompatActivity() {  
    override fun onCreate(savedInstanceState: Bundle?) {  
        super.onCreate(savedInstanceState)  
        setContentView(R.layout.activity_main)  
        changeColorBtn.setOnClickListener {  
            greetingTv.setTextColor(getRandomColor())  
        }  
    }  
}
```

Connects  
activity  
with layout



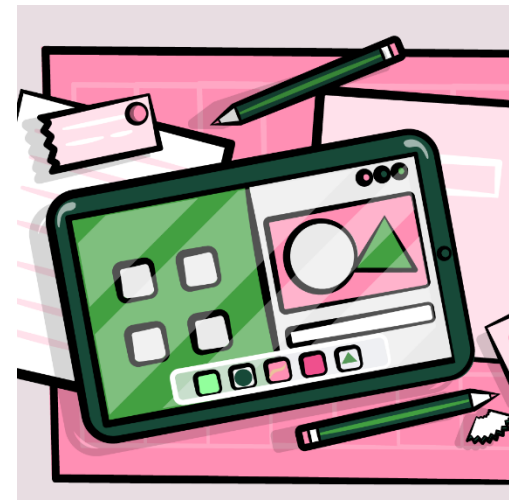
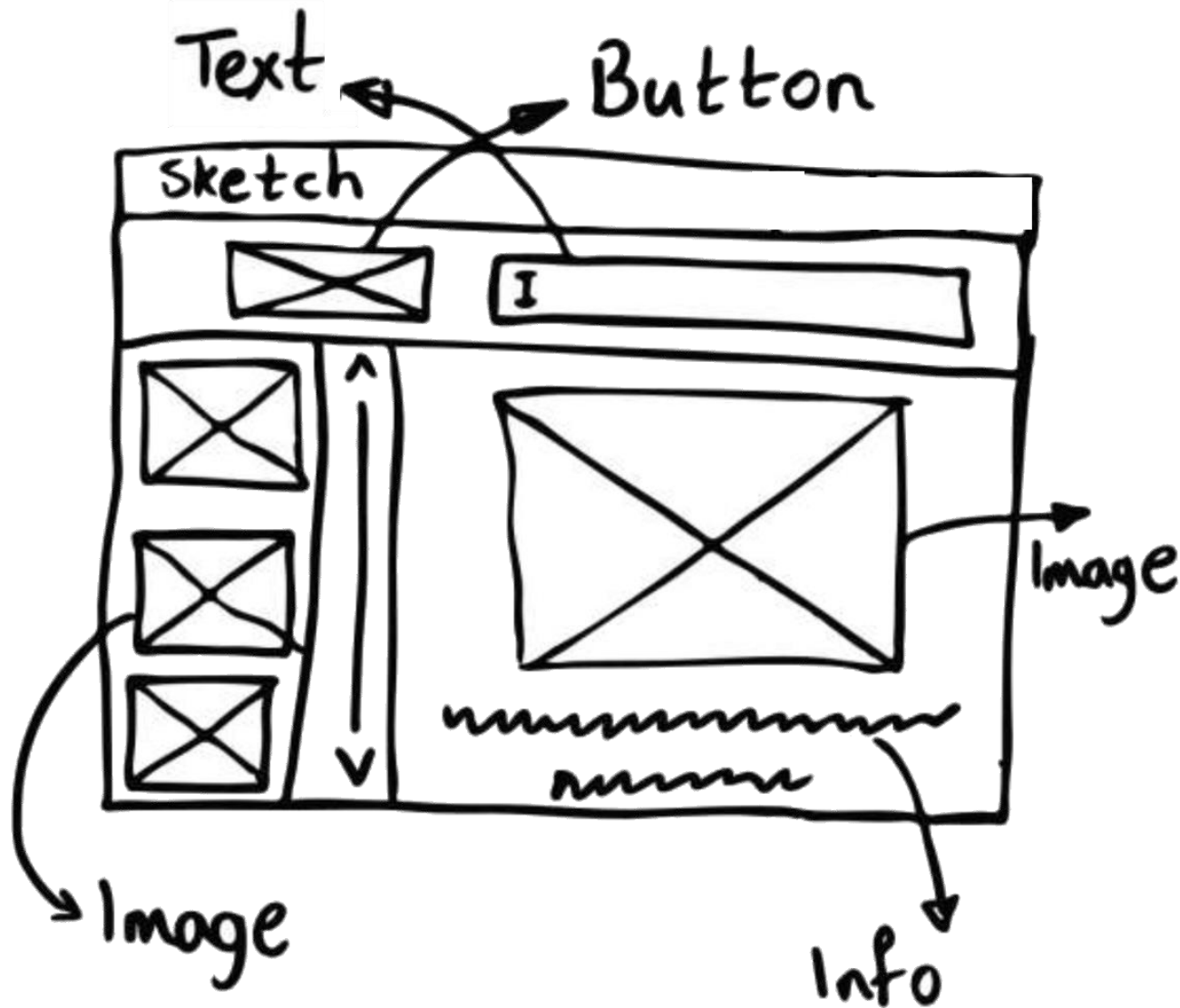
# Event Driven Programming

- GUI programming model is based on **event driven programming**
  - Code is executed upon activation of events
- An **event** is a signal from Android system that something of interest to the app has occurred
  - UI Events (click, tap, swipe, drag)
  - Input focus (gained, lost)
  - Keyboard (key press, key release)
  - Activity events (e.g., onCreate, onRestart)
  - Device: [DetectedActivity](#) such as walking, driving, tilting
- When an event is triggered, an event handler can run to respond to the event. e.g.,
  - When the button is clicked -> load the data from a file into a list

# Steps to creating a GUI Interface

1. Design it on paper (sketch)
  - Decide what information to present to the user and what input they should supply
  - Decide the UI components and the layout on paper
2. Create a layout and add UI components to it using the Layout Editor
  - Use the Layout Editor to group and arrange components
3. Add event handlers to respond to the user actions
  - Do something when the user presses a button, selects an item from list, change text of input field, etc.

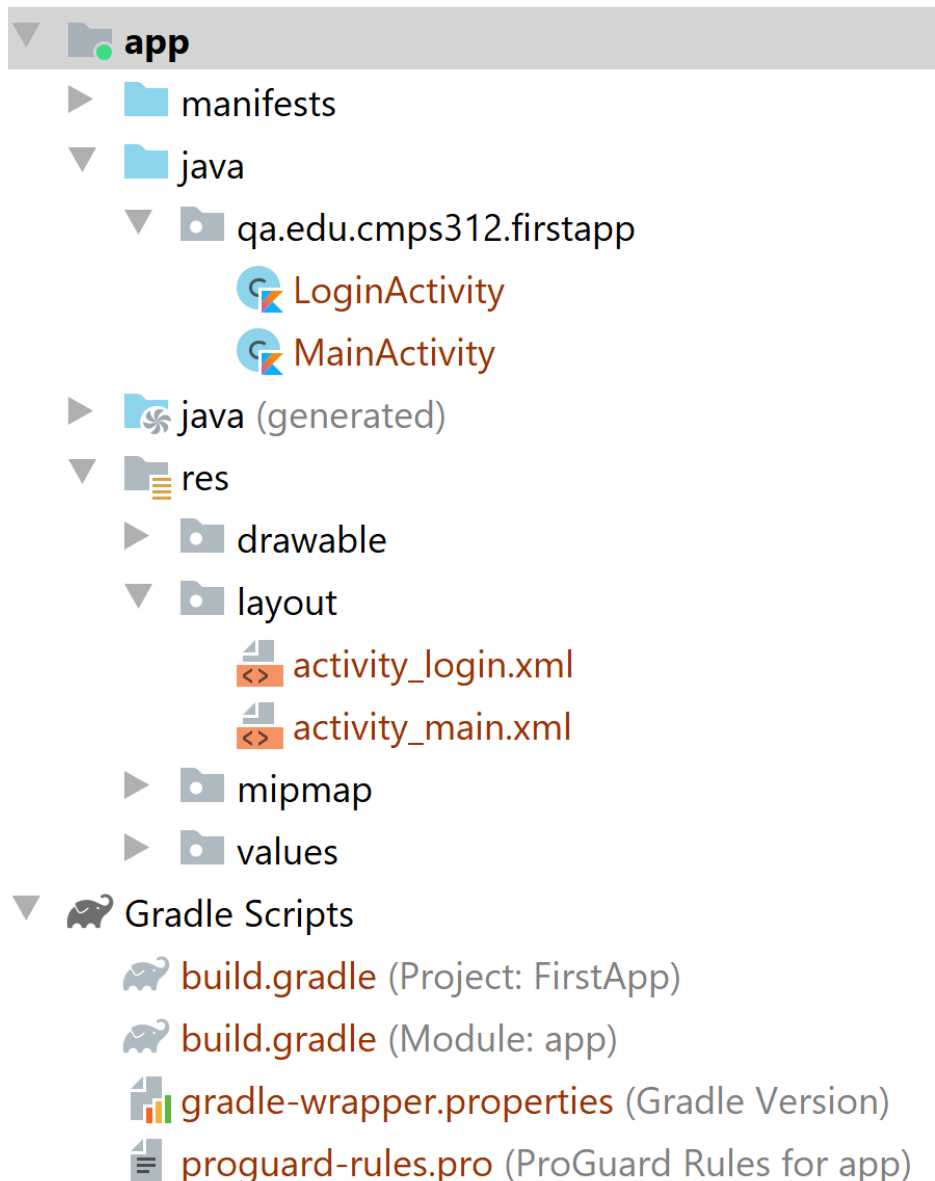
# UI Sketch - Example



You may design different layouts per screen size



# Project structure



## AndroidManifest.xml

- app config and settings (e.g., list app activities and required permissions)

## java/...

- Kotlin source code

## res/... = resource files (*many are XML*)

- drawable/ = images
- layout/ = GUI layouts
- menu/ = app menu options
- values/ = **Externalize** constant values
- strings/ = user-visible strings
- styles/ = appearance styling

## Gradle

- a build/compile management system
- **build.gradle** = define config and dependencies (one for entire project & other for app module)

# Resources

- **Separate** static data needed by the UI from the code that does computations and handles events
  - **drawable** – image files
  - **layout** - layout files for Activities
  - **strings.xml**: Defines any user-visible strings as string resources + Supports localization
  - **dimens.xml**: Defines any view/text dimensions
  - **colors.xml** & **styles.xml**: Define reusable colors and styles to customize the overall design aesthetic of the app
- Resource files are stored in **res** folder

# Refer to resources in code

- Layout:

```
setContentView(R.layout.activity_main)
```

- View:

```
greetingTv.text = "Salam"
```

- String:

In Kotlin: `R.string.title`

In XML: `android:text="@string/title"`

# Externalize Constants

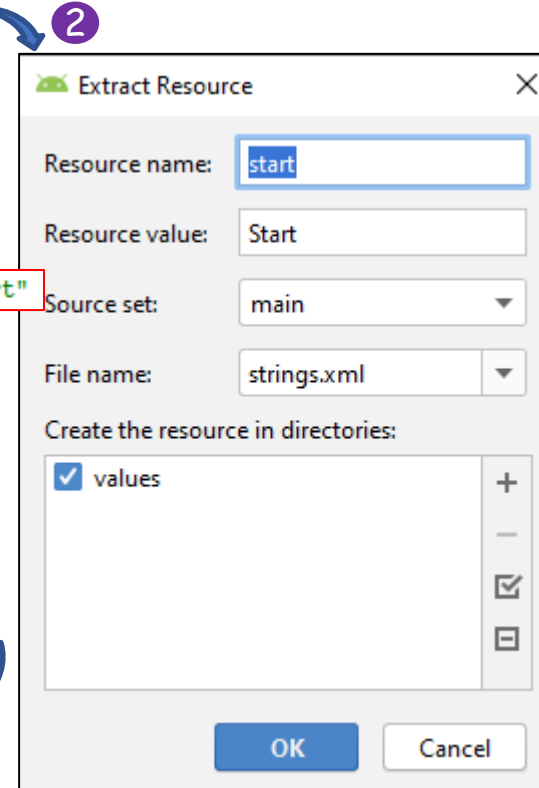
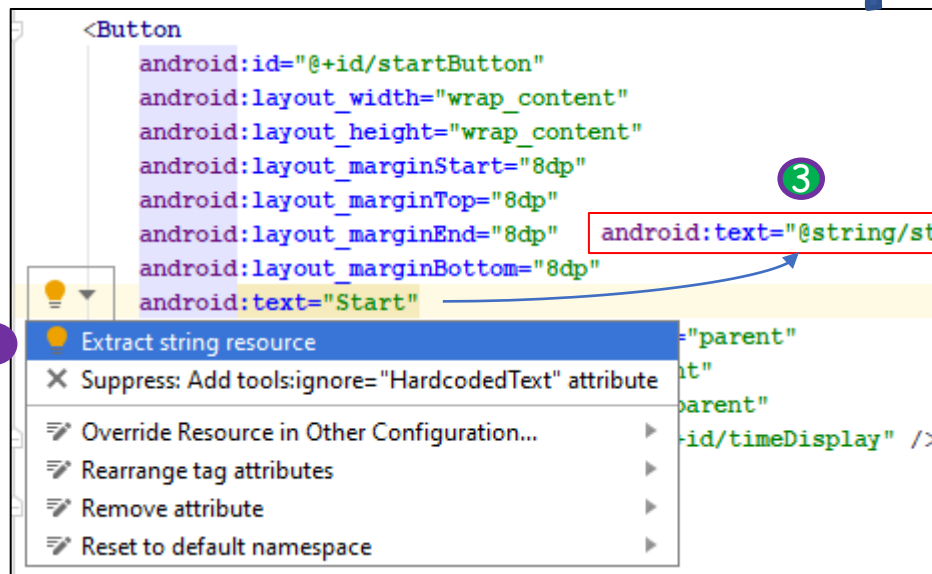
- Edit res/layout/activity\_main.xml
  - Replace string “Start” of the start button with “@string/start”.
  - Benefit = Localization, e.g., es/values-es/strings.xml

Start

Comienzo

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<resources>
  <string name="start">Comienzo</string>
  <string name="stop">Detener</string>
</resources>
```

res/layout/activity\_main.xml



```
<resources>
  <string name="app_name">Timer</string>
  <string name="start">Start</string>
</resources>
```

res/values/strings.xml

# Resources

- Android Kotlin Fundamentals Course
  - <https://codelabs.developers.google.com/android-kotlin-fundamentals/>
  - <https://developer.android.com/courses/android-basics-kotlin/course>
- Android Dev Guide
  - <https://developer.android.com/guide/>